CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 39 and 41 without prejudice to filing a continuation application containing the same.

Please amend claims 1, 4-6, 8, 13 and 54 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of making a colored contact lens, the method comprising the steps of:
transporting a contact lens into an ink jet printer having a plurality of nozzels, wherein each nozzel is sized to form drops having a volume of less than 100 picoliters of colorant~~, and wherein the ink jet printer is capable of printing, on the surface of the contact lens, pixels which are less than 150 microns in diameter which are spaced by less than 80 microns,~~; and printing pixels of less than 150 microns in diameter ~~a first pattern~~ on a surface of the contact lens by, under control of a computer, dispensing droplets of a first colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens to form a first pattern, wherein the ink jet printer spaces the pixels less than 80 microns from each other.

2. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nozzles face perpendicular to the surface of the contact lens to be printed and form a hemisphere around the contact lens.

3. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the printing step is performed, under control of the computer, by dispensing droplets of the first colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens while rotating the contact lens.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first colorant is an ink comprising at least one pigment, and wherein the ink is characterized by being capable of drying in less than 5 seconds, by having a viscosity of from about 1 to about 50 centipoise, and by being capable of adhering to the contact lens and retaining the shape of the contact lens after being treated in an autoclave.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising printing a second pattern by, under control of the computer, dispensing droplets of a second colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens, wherein the second pattern is comprised of pixels which are less than 150 microns in diameter and spaced less than 80 microns.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the first and second colorants independent of each other are inks comprising at least one pigment, and wherein the ink is characterized by being capable of drying in less than 5 seconds, by having a viscosity of from about 1 to about 50 centipoise, and by being capable of adhering to the contact lens and retaining the shape of the contact lens after being treated in an autoclave.

7. (Previously amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the nozzles face perpendicular to the surface of the contact lens to be printed and form a hemisphere around the contact lens.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the printing step is performed, under control of the computer, by dispensing droplets of the first or second colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens while rotating the contact lens.

9. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising coating the lens with a binding solution.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the coating is done during printing.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the coating is done after printing.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the binding solution comprises at least one monomer.

13. (Currently amended) A~~The~~ method of ~~claim 9~~ making a colored contact lens, the method comprising the steps of: transporting a contact lens into an ink jet printer having a plurality of nozzels, wherein each nozzel is sized to form drops having a volume of less than 100 picoliters of colorant, and wherein the ink jet printer is capable of printing, on the surface of the contact lens, pixels which are less than 150 microns in diameter;
printing a first pattern on a surface of the contact lens by, under control of a computer, dispensing droplets of a first colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens; and
coating the lens with a binding solution, wherein the binding solution comprises at least one hydrophilic monomer and at least one hydrophobic monomer.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the binding solution comprises 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate and 2-ethoxyethyl methacrylate.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the binding solution further comprises an adhesion promoter.

16. (Original) A colored contact lens produced by the process of claim 1.

17-38. (canceled)

39. (canceled)

40. (canceled).

41. (canceled)

42-49. (canceled)

50. (Previously added) The method of claim 5, wherein the second pattern overlaps the first pattern, at least in part.

51. (Previously added) The method of claim 50, wherein the second pattern overlaps the first pattern such that at least 50% of the first pattern is covered.

52. (Previously added) The colored contact lens of claim 16, comprising an image thereon, wherein the image is selected from the group consisting of a cosmetic pattern, an inversion mark, a SKU code, an identity code, and combinations thereof.

53. (Previously added) The colored contact lens of claim 52, wherein the image is a cosmetic pattern.

54. (Currently added) The colored contact lens of claim 53~~52~~, wherein said cosmetic pattern is an iris pattern.

55. (Previously added) The colored contact lens of claim 52, wherein the image is an inversion mark.

56. (Previously added) The colored contact lens of claim 52, wherein the image is an SKU code.

57. (Previously added) The colored contact lens of claim 56, wherein the contact lens further comprises an iris pattern and wherein the SKU code is blended with the iris pattern.

58. (Previously added) The colored contact lens of claim 52, wherein the image is an identity code.

Please add claims 59-74 as following:

59. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the nozzles face perpendicular to the surface of the contact lens to be printed and form a hemisphere around the contact lens.

60. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the printing step is performed, under control of the computer, by dispensing droplets of the first colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens while rotating the contact lens.

61. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the first colorant is an ink comprising at least one pigment, and wherein the ink is characterized by being capable of drying in less than 5 seconds, by having a viscosity of from about 1 to about 50 centipoise, and by being capable of adhering to the contact lens and retaining the shape of the contact lens after being treated in an autoclave.

62. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising printing a second pattern by, under control of the computer, dispensing droplets of a second colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the first and second colorants independent of each other are inks comprising at least one pigment, and wherein the ink is characterized by being capable of drying in less than 5 seconds, by having a viscosity of from about 1 to about 50 centipoise, and by being capable of adhering to the contact lens and retaining the shape of the contact lens after being treated in an autoclave.

64. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the binding solution further comprises an adhesion promoter.

65. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the second pattern overlaps the first pattern, at least in part.

66. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the second pattern overlaps the first pattern such that at least 50% of the first pattern is covered.

67. (New) A colored contact lens produced by the process of claim 13.

68. (New) The colored contact lens of claim 67, comprising an image thereon, wherein the image is selected from the group consisting of a cosmetic pattern, an inversion mark, a SKU code, an identity code, and combinations thereof.

69. (New) The colored contact lens of claim 68, wherein the image is a cosmetic pattern.

70. (New) The colored contact lens of claim 69, wherein said cosmetic pattern is an iris pattern.

71. (New) The colored contact lens of claim 68, wherein the image is an inversion mark.

72. (New) The colored contact lens of claim 68, wherein the image is an SKU code.

73. (New) The colored contact lens of claim 68, wherein the contact lens further comprises an iris pattern and wherein the SKU code is blended with the iris pattern.

74. (New) The colored contact lens of claim 68, wherein the image is an identity code.